

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING

April 2, 2007

(Approved May 7,2007)

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:02 pm in Room 438 of the State House, Augusta. Members present included Representative Patricia Blanchette, Jay Bradshaw, Stephan Bunker, Chief John Dean, Chief Kenneth Desmond, Chief Darrel Fournier, Alan Johnston, Geoffrey Maker, Ed Marks, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Representative Benjamin Pratt, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Senator Ethan Strimling and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused were Representative Dean Cray, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, Edward Johnston, Robert McAleer and David Wacker. Alan Hammond, Planning and Training Coordinator from the Maine Forest Service, attended as guest of the Fire Commission.

The Fire Commission is pleased to announce that Ed Marks will be representing Maine Fire Training and Education, replacing Cameron Martin.

A motion by Harty Norris, seconded by Ken Desmond, to accept the March 5th meeting minutes as revised. The motion passed unanimously and will reflect that Chief John Dean was absent, not present, at the March meeting.

According to the Fire Commission bylaws, the meeting in April is designated as the “annual meeting” and election of officers is held at the April meeting. The Elections Committee suggested a slate of officers which was unanimously supported at the March meeting. The slate of officers is:

Chief Jeffrey Cammack- Chair
Senator Richard Nass- Vice Chair
Geoffrey Maker-Secretary
Chief John Dean-Treasurer

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Charlie Soltan, to accept the slate of officers nominated at the March meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference Committee distributed two evaluation forms on the 2007 Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders. Several changes were made to attract a larger audience although attendance was down from 2006. The conference location was moved to Bangor and more diverse subjects were offered to attract law enforcement, public health officials and codes enforcement as well as the fire service. Vendor space was expanded and attendees were appreciative. Fire Commission members discussed the comments on the evaluation forms and made several suggestions and comments to improve future conferences. Members suggested alternating the conference location- Lewiston/Auburn, Portland/South Portland, Northern and Western Maine were mentioned. Lack of legislative attendance was mentioned and some members suggested holding the conference in Augusta during the first session (odd years). Members also discussed changing the time of year as well as the days of the week- perhaps considering a weekend conference. It was also suggested to partner with other organizations that hold small conferences/workshops during the year. Members agreed to continue discussions at the May meeting.

The Training Facilities Committee reports that it met with Maine Fire Training and Education (MFT&E) representatives in South Portland on March 26th. The committee expressed several concerns including the lack of financial information from MFT&E. Financial information is required when submitting a proposal for reuse of Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS) land for a state training facility. The Training Facilities Committee will also be looking into the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro as an alternative site. The BNAS process is being coordinated through the Governor's Office and proposals must be submitted by May 9th. The Committee also has a scheduled meeting with the new director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEME).

A motion by Jay Bradshaw, seconded by Harty Norris, to adopt the recommendations of the Maine Training Facilities Task Force Report (May 2006) and to request funding from the Maine Legislature in 2007 for a feasibility study. The motion passed unanimously.

The Best Practices Committee reports that the Bangor Fire Department was the recipient of the Fire Commission's Best Practice Award and was recognized at the 2007 Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response. The Committee continues to remind members to submit nominations for 2007.

Legislation 2007

The Fire Commission reviewed a preliminary list of bills submitted in the first session of the 123rd Legislature. Members discussed the pros and cons about taking positions on the bills. The Fire Commission agreed to support the following new bills:

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Alex McPhedran, to support LD 239 “An Act to Provide a Felony Penalty for Assault on a Firefighter”. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Harty Norris, to support LD 362 “An Act to Effect the Seizure and Disposal of Contraband Fireworks”. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Steve Bunker, seconded by Darrel Fournier, to support LD 547 “An Act to Create Fairness in E-9-1-1-Funding . The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Harty Norris, to support LD 886 “An Act to Clarify Certain Laws Related to Fire Safety”. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Ken Desmond, to support LD 907” An Act to Ensure the Safety of Facilities Dispensing Flammable Liquids”. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Jeff Maker, to support LD 911”An Act to Provide Health Care Insurance to Volunteer Public Safety Personnel” in concept. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Harty Norris, to support LD 946 “An Act to Prevent Smoke Detector Tampering”. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Harty Norris, to support LD 1172 “An Act to Regulate Fire Alarm Contractors”. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Jeff Maker, seconded by Vicki Schmidt, to support LD 1488 “An Act To Reduce Contamination in the Home from the Release of Brominated Flame Retardants” and to send a letter of support. The motion passed with one member opposed (Darrel Fournier)

A motion by Jeff Maker, seconded by Vicki Schmidt, to support LD 1658 “AN Act to Protect Pregnant Women and Children from Toxic Chemicals Released into the Home” to send a letter of support. The motion passed with one member opposed.

Old Business

Fire Commission members discussed touring the New Hampshire Fire Academy. Arrangements will be discussed further at the May meeting.

New Business

Registration forms are still available for the NFPA conference in Boston on June 5th. Members are encouraged to contact Harty Norris for more information.

The meeting schedule was discussed and it was agreed to not meet in July.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 3:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette
Staff

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Monday, May 7th</u>	FIRE CAUCUS	State House	12Noon
<u>Monday, May 7th</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
<u>Monday, June 4th</u>	FIRE CAUCUS	State House	12Noon
<u>Monday, June 4th</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
<u>Monday, July 2nd</u>	NO MEETING		
<u>Monday, August 6th</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm

To be scheduled:

Tour of the New Hampshire Fire Academy
Training Facilities Meeting